

HISTORY SECTION, LEADER TRAINING CENTER, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL, FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

MUSKET AND ARROW
A Guide to U.S. Army Staff Ride Sites in Southern Texas
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**Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School,
Fort Sam Houston, Texas 2006**

I. INTRODUCTION

The staff ride has been an established part of the Officer Advanced Course at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School since the summer of 1992. Under the sponsorship of the Center & School's Leader Training Center the command historian has been able to develop and offer an expanding selection of staff rides to sites located within 250 miles of Fort Sam Houston, Texas. All of them have been personally visited and evaluated for staff ride purposes by the author, and have actually hosted staff rides conducted by military personnel from Fort Sam Houston. Most are located within a hundred miles of the post, and all are accessible by conventional automobile, although some walking is always required on exercises of this sort. The program's initial offering of San Jacinto has been joined by other locales hosting actions fought as early as 1813 and as late as 1875 in southwestern Texas. In a region distinguished by a violent and colorful history, the number of sites suitable for hosting staff rides remains far from exhausted.

The purpose of this publication is to provide the potential staff ride planner or historically-minded traveler with a concise guide to the staff ride sites currently utilized by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School and other tenant units at Fort Sam Houston. Each section includes a summary of the action and its significance to the military history of Texas, precise directions to its location from Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio, and information concerning local points of contact, logistical issues and a detailed list of references.

The reader is referred to Dr. William G. Robertson's **THE STAFF RIDE** (CMH Pub 70-24), which provides invaluable guidance for the planning and execution of such exercises. Adequate prior planning for academic, logistical, and administrative factors is essential to the successful conduct of a staff ride. Oversights in the planning process invariably result in embarrassments in the field, which can range from the mildly inconvenient to abrupt "show-stoppers." A thorough study of both this publication and that of Dr. Robertson will help the staff ride planners and participants avoid the many potential pitfalls to be found in the conduct of these scholarly forays into our martial past.

Armed with this guide the aspiring staff ride planner or interested traveler can efficiently plan a visit to all of the sites referenced whether for the purpose of professional education or casual recreation. Robert E. Lee once observed that "it is history which teaches us to hope." The author hopes that this guide to some of the most notable sites in the military history of Texas will aid all who use it in sustaining the interest of both the U.S. Army and the general public in the forging places of our nation's martial heritage.

Wayne R. Austerman, Ph.D.

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THE BATTLE OF THE MEDINA (1813)

Summary:

The French invasion of Spain in 1808 led to an inevitable loosening of imperial control over Spanish colonies in the Western Hemisphere. Even as the Spanish monarchy struggled to prevail (with English and Portuguese help) over the Napoleonic interlopers, a series of independence movements erupted in the New World which typically elicited a savage response from the mother country as it sought to retain its foreign possessions.

In 1812 a coalition of native Hispanics and American adventurers sought to make Texas independent from the Spanish empire. Initially led by a former U.S. Army artillery officer and a Mexican-born blacksmith turned political firebrand, the rebels launched an offensive into Texas from Louisiana, seized the Spanish presidio at Goliad, endured a lengthy siege by imperial forces, and then pursued the retreating royalists westward to San Antonio and defeated them at the Battle of Rosillo Creek. Declaring the first Republic of Texas, they inflicted brutal reprisals upon the old colonial leadership and soon fell victim to rising factionalism within their own ranks.

In the summer of 1813 General Joaquin Arredondo led a Spanish army north from Mexico to invade Texas, crush the revolt, and reclaim the territory for the crown. Accompanying Arredondo's force was an obscure young junior officer, Jose Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. The Anglo-Hispanic rebels marched southward to the vicinity of modern Poteet, where, failing to lure the Spanish into an ambush, they pursued their retreating advance guard to the banks of Galvan Creek, where Arredondo annihilated them after a key rebel commander elected to defect to the Spanish during the middle of the battle on August 18. The triumphant loyalists pursued the shattered rebel force northward into San Antonio, where Arredondo inflicted a savage imperial revenge upon the insurgents and their families.

Thus ended the first bid for Texan independence in an engagement fought along an obscure creek, which was called the Battle of the Medina simply because that larger watercourse was the closest well-known major terrain feature.

Location:

The battle site and maneuver box for this action are generally located between the hamlet of Thelma on Highway Loop 1604 South and the community of Poteet, approximately thirty-three miles south of Fort Sam Houston. Estimated travel time from Fort Sam Houston to the starting point in Poteet is fifty-three minutes in periods of normal traffic flow. The staff ride route runs generally north-northeast from Poteet to a point a few miles south of Thelma, adjacent to the north-south axis of the Missouri-Pacific railroad route.

Directions:

From San Antonio take Interstate Highway 35 South. Follow it southward to Exit 148B, and take the ramp (right) onto South Pan Am Expressway, towards Palo Alto Road. Turn south onto the SR-422 Spur (Poteet-Jourdanton Freeway). Continue as the road name changes to SR-16 (Palo Alto Road). Maintain direction straight onto FM-476 (SR-16). Bear left (east) onto FM-476 (SR 282 Loop). Continue straight ahead onto FM 3498 (School Drive). At the intersection of FM 3498 (School Drive) and Rutledge (Hollow) Road make a left turn onto Rutledge (Hollow) Road and follow it out of town and northward into the countryside. You will pass by two cemeteries located on either side of the road. The gravel road will bear gradually to the right (northeast).

At 4.2 miles from the intersection of Rutledge (Hollow) Road and Highway 476 pull off to the righthand side of the road and halt. Dismount (Stop 1). Look for the stock pond on the righthand side of the road. This was the Spanish army's campsite on the night of 17 August 1813 (Schwartz and Thonhoff, pp. 74-75). From this point proceed on Rutledge (Hollow) Road for another 1.6 miles to the intersection with Bruce Road. Turn left onto Bruce Road and follow it for 0.8 miles to an intersection with a gravel road entering it from the left (northwest). Pull off to the righthand side of the road and halt (Stop 2).

Dismount and walk up the intersecting gravel road. Follow the fenceline on your right a short distance to a locked gate. Looking across the top of the gate you can see what is now a vast open field. The low ground in the middle distance marks the course of Galvan Creek. This is the main battlefield site. Point it out to the staff ride participants and stress its future importance, but do not begin a discussion of the battle here. The Spanish cavalry element passed through this point on the morning of 18 August as it sought to locate the rebel force located somewhere to the northeast.

Return to your vehicles and continue for 3.3 miles on Bruce Road to its intersection with Pleasanton Road. At the intersection turn left onto Pleasanton Road and proceed for 2 miles to the intersection of Pleasanton Road and Big Leaf Road, in the vicinity of the "Corner Bar" tavern located on the lefthand side of the road. This area, in the near-vicinity of Galinas Creek, marked the site of the intended rebel ambush of the advancing Spanish forces (Stop 3). Halt and dismount to discuss the sequence of events here.

You may need to proceed a short distance north of the tavern to better view the nature of the terrain in this intended ambush zone. Emphasize that the rebel camp was sited on the high ground to the north-northwest of here on the night prior to the battle (Schwartz and Thonhoff, pp. 77-96).

(At this point you may wish to conduct a period weapons shoot. From the intersection of Pleasanton Road and Big Leaf Road proceed northward for 1.3 miles to

the entrance to Osburn Materials gravel quarry. Turn right and proceed to the corporate headquarters to receive clearance in accordance with prior arrangement and be directed to a shooting site.) (See **Points of Contact**.)

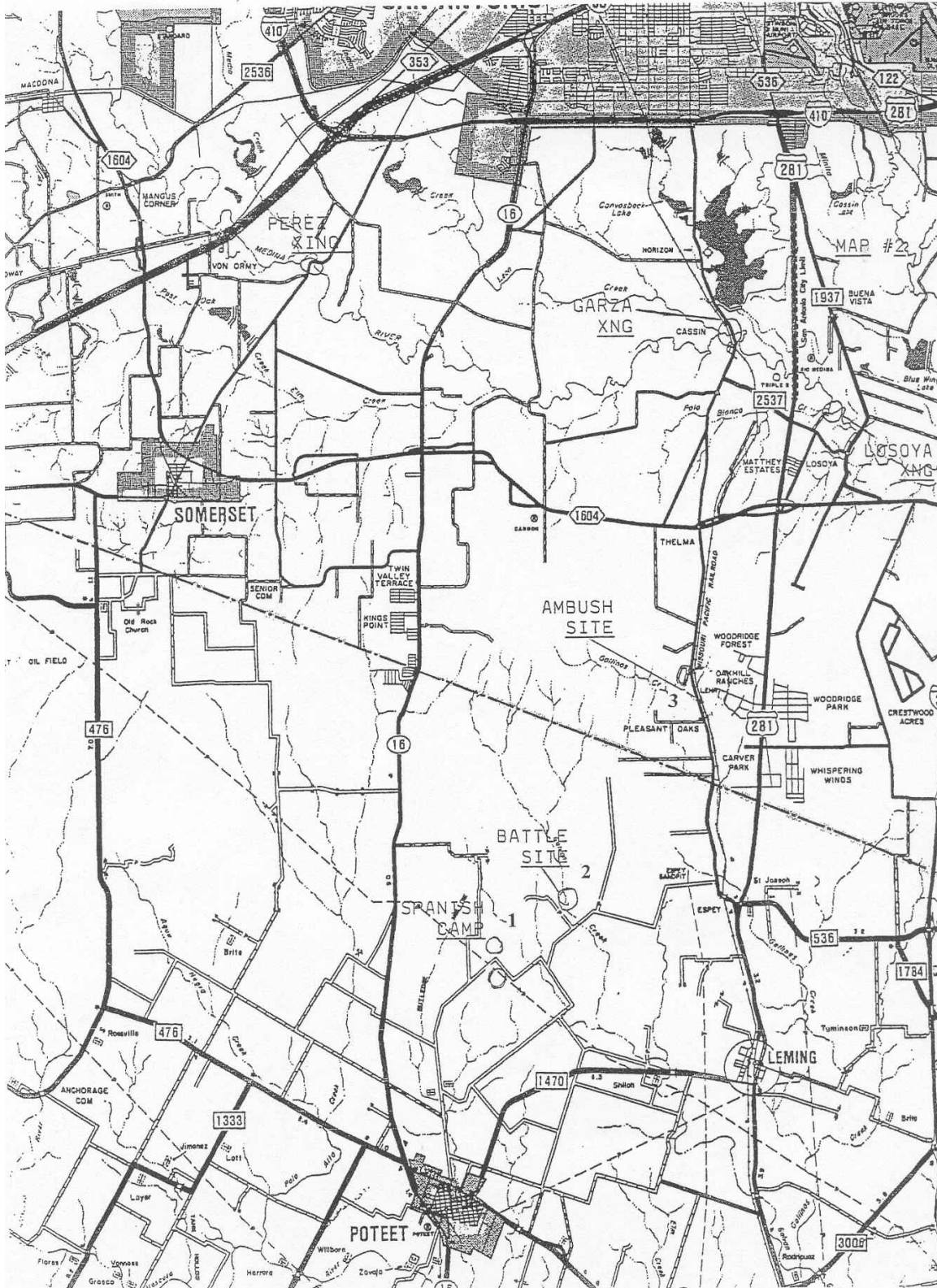
If a noon meal stop is desired at this time you may continue past the entrance for Osburn Materials on Pleasonton Road for 3.2 miles to its intersection with Highway Loop 1604. Turn right onto Loop 1604 East and proceed 0.6 miles to the Alondra de Jalisco Mexican Restaurant at 505 South Loop 1604. (See **Points of Contact**.)

Return to your vehicles and backtrack to the Bruce Road/Pleasanton Road intersection. Turn right onto Bruce Road and retrace the route to the battlefield location (Stop 2). Be aware of the low point in the road marking the course of Galvan Creek as you approach Stop 2 again. Halt at the road intersection. Pull safely off to the side of the road and walk back to the gate to view the battlefield again. Discuss the course of the rebel pursuit and the meeting of forces in battle at this site. After analyzing the battle discuss the Spanish pursuit of the fleeing rebels back through the earlier intended ambush site and northward into San Antonio (Schwartz and Thonhoff, pp. 97-115). It would be appropriate to conduct the Integration and Critique phases of the staff ride at this point.

Proceed back along Bruce Road and Rutledge Road to Poteet. A comfort or refreshment halt at one of the local eating establishments may be preferable before returning to your point of origin or another destination.

(Note: This entire staff ride should be conducted without entering any private property. The current leaseholder of the land encompassing the main battlefield site will not permit any entry by the public due to past theft and vandalism directed at his farm equipment. **Do not** cross over any fencelines or open any gates. All the relevant sites on this staff ride route can be viewed from on or near the highway. In dry weather be aware of the driving and vision hazards from dust. In weather which threatens rain be aware that traction on the sandy roads of Atascosa County can be hazardous and that low water creek crossings are subject to sudden flooding. If water is rushing over the roadway **do not** attempt to drive through the flow.)

MAP BATTLE OF THE MEDINA



Points of Contact:

Staff ride facilitators who have access to period blackpowder weapons may wish to incorporate blank or live-fire demonstrations as part of the exercise. The AMEDDC&S staff rides to this site include a live-fire demonstration and period weapons shoot for participants at a quarry located on the Pleasanton Road in the vicinity of the planned rebel ambush site. POC is:

Mr. Clay M. Tooke
President
Osburn Materials Incorporated
24068 Pleasanton Road
San Antonio, TX 78264
210-626-2045
Fax 210-626-3166

Restaurants:

The town of Poteet contains several fast-food establishments and small restaurants. The hamlet of Thelma, located on Loop 1604 in the northern portion of the battle area, also contains a restaurant which has successfully hosted staff ride groups in the past. POC for the restaurant is:

“Rose” or “Lola”
Alondra de Jalisco Mexican Restaurant
505 South Loop 1604
San Antonio, Texas 78264
210-626-3787

(Note: Any reference to a private business of any type within this guide does not constitute an official endorsement by the Department of the Army. Such references simply indicate that the establishment exists and may have been patronized successfully on past staff rides conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School.)

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Ted Schwarz and Robert H. Thonhoff, **Forgotten Battlefield of the First Texas Revolution: The Battle of the Medina** (Austin: Eakin Press, 1985). (The definitive work on the subject.)

Maps:

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IV. THE ALAMO (1836)

Summary:

The shrine of Texas liberty and one of the most well known of the nation's historic sites, the Alamo hosted Spanish missionaries, the presidial troops of both Spain and Mexico, an occupying Mexican army and a storied band of doomed but defiant Texian rebels between its founding in 1718 and December 1835. Today approximately 10% of the original mission compound survives to be preserved in downtown San Antonio.

Early in October 1835 the Anglo colonists of Texas and a handful of native Hispanic allies rose in revolt against Mexican misrule as clashes erupted between the Texians and Mexican troops at Gonzales and Goliad. Soon afterward an "Army of the People" marched westward to San Antonio and laid siege to General Ferdinand Cos and his force of approximately a thousand troops. After two months of skirmishing the Texians carried the town in several days and nights of street fighting. Cos surrendered his troops, who were promptly disarmed, paroled and sent marching southward for Mexico in defeat.

The bulk of the rebel force went home to celebrate Christmas after posting a token garrison at the Alamo, a former Cos-defended position located a quarter mile outside of town. By mid-February the garrison of less than 200 men occupied the crumbling adobe fort under the fractious command of Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis of the provisional regular Texian forces and Colonel James Bowie of the volunteers. The two men cordially detested each other, but Bowie's failing health soon placed the total responsibility for command on Travis' shoulders.

On February 23, 1836, the lead elements of an invading army led by Mexican dictator Jose Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna entered San Antonio, nearly taking the Alamo garrison by surprise as they were sleeping off the excesses of the previous night's *fandango*. The Mexican forces quickly invested the Alamo, laying siege to it for thirteen days until Santa Anna ordered it taken by storm in the predawn hours of March 6. Mexican casualties were heavy, but the defenders were annihilated.

Travis and Bowie had exercised dubious judgment in several areas of their shared command of the Alamo garrison, and many historians argue that the Texians should never have elected to make a defensive stand under such conditions, but their martyrdom on the points of Mexican bayonets provided the great founding myth of Texas history as well as eliciting marked sympathy and support from the neighboring United States in the form of a flood of volunteers eager to fight for Texas liberty. On April 21, 1836, Texian forces led by Sam Houston decisively defeated Santa Anna and the vanguard of his army at San Jacinto, nearly 250 miles to the east of San Antonio. The battlecry of "Remember the Alamo!" has resonated through American history ever since. A staff ride to the sadly diminished remnants of the original Alamo compound can yield useful insights on the

impact of individual personalities upon the politics of command, the wisdom of the Texian strategy (or lack thereof) in early 1836, and the medical aspects of the contest, during which the Mexican forces went to war with a medical support system which was at best a bad joke. The medical profiles of Bowie, Travis and Santa Anna also yield intriguing insights for students of leadership.

Location:

Hemmed in by the urban growth of modern San Antonio, the remnants of the Alamo occupy Alamo Plaza, which is demarcated by Houston and Crockett Streets.

Directions:

Exit the South Walters Street gate of Fort Sam Houston and enter I-35 South. Follow I-35 South for one mile and take Exit 158B onto I-37 South. Proceed along I-37 South for another mile and take Exit 141B (Houston Street/The Alamo). Make a right turn onto Houston Street and then make a left turn onto Bowie Street at the first intersection. Proceed a short distance on Bowie Street and then make a right turn onto East Crockett Street. Make a left turn into the entrance for the Imax Theater/Rivercenter Mall Parking lot. Park and secure your vehicle. Exit the parking lot back onto East Crockett Street and follow it down to and through its intersection with Bonham Street. Continue along East Crockett Street to Alamo Plaza. Bear to the right at Alamo Plaza and proceed past the Menger Hotel to reach the Alamo at 300 Alamo Plaza.

(Note: Be advised that the Alamo is administered by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The Daughters do not allow any sort of organized tour groups to operate on the Alamo grounds without the supervision of one of the resident docents. A private security force is retained to ensure that no such groups seek to operate within the limits of the site. Any group discussions must be held on the plaza across the street from the Alamo itself. A good site is the area adjacent to the bandstand on the plaza. Staff ride participants can enter and tour the grounds in a body, but cannot be accompanied by a leader/commentator/interpreter. Thus all discussion of the battle during the Field Study Phase as well as the Integration and Critique phases must be conducted off-site.)

Points of Contact:

Dr. Richard B. Winders, Alamo Historian and Curator, offers guided tours and interpretive lecture-discussions to staff ride groups on the Alamo grounds. His expertise can materially enhance any staff ride. Point of Contact for him is:

Dr. Richard B. Winders
300 Alamo Plaza

P.O. Box 2599
San Antonio, Texas 78299
210-225-1391, Ext. 27
Fax 210-229-1343
E-Mail: bwinders@thealamo.org

Alamo Operating Hours:

Winter: Monday through Saturday, 9 AM – 5:30 PM.
Sunday, 10 AM-5:30 PM.

Summer: Monday through Saturday, 9 AM-6:30 PM,
Sunday, 10 AM-6:30 PM.

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

IMAX Theater

Any Alamo staff ride should include a viewing of the IMAX motion picture, “Alamo: The Price of Freedom.” The film admirably captures the spirit and flavor of the times, while providing insight on how modern Texans continue to view the great creation myth of their home state. Military organizations can obtain a discount price on tickets. It is advisable to reserve a block of theater seats well ahead of schedule. Point of Contact for the IMAX Theater is:

San Antonio IMAX Theater
Rivercenter Mall
849 Commerce Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
210-225-6517
210-225-4629

Daily Showing Times: 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM.
Admission: Adults \$6.95, seniors \$6.50, children, ages 3-11, \$4.75.

(Note: Access to the theater from Alamo Plaza is easier via Crockett Street.)

Range Facilities:

Staff ride facilitators wishing to conduct a period weapons shoot have the option of travel to the Bracken Range on Marbach Road, a site on the northeastern edge of the San Antonio metropolis, where live rounds can be fired for a nominal range fee. (See map.) POC for the range is at 210-651-9009. The range does not open until noon on weekdays.

Restaurants:

The nearby Rivercenter Mall boasts numerous good restaurants, while the streets surrounding the Alamo plaza contain the typical tourist-oriented fast-food establishments and “saloons.”

Second Option:

A second option for an Alamo staff ride exists in the form of the motion picture set constructed for the 1960 John Wayne epic, which forms part of a recreation park and operational film site near Brackettville, Texas. Although it is not a completely accurate restoration of the 1836 Alamo fortification and neighboring village of San Antonio de Bexar, it still ironically serves to better capture the physical presence of the time and place than does the original site in the heart of modern downtown San Antonio.

Location:

Alamo Village is located seven miles north of the town of Brackettville on R.M. 674, approximately 140 miles west of San Antonio.

Directions:

From San Antonio follow US Highway 90 West for 123 miles in three hours of driving time to reach Brackettville. At the intersection of Highway 90 and R.M. 674 turn right and follow R.M. 674 seven miles to the gates of Alamo Village. After paying the admission fee follow the ranch road to the site of the Alamo motion picture set. Park immediately adjacent to the structure and dismount. The set representing old San Antonio is located a quarter of a mile to the north, within easy walking distance. It now hosts a restaurant-cantina, museum and several shops, along with the **sole** public restroom facilities on site. Admission to Alamo Village is \$8.60 during the winter season. The military admission rate is \$7.00. The facility is open daily from 9 a.m.

Range Facilities:

Alamo Village is part of a larger working ranch complex, with livestock and native wildlife having free roaming rights over the range. That fact and liability concerns prohibit weapons firing of live or blank charges with period weapons on the site. If a period weapons shoot is desired it may be conducted en route to Brackettville at the Fort Clark Springs Gun Club range by prior arrangement with the club president. (See **Points of Contact**.) Fort Clark Springs is located in Brackettville, directly accessible from U.S. Highway 90. It is the site of the historic 1852 cavalry post of Fort Clark, which reverted

to private ownership after World War II. It is now a retirement community and vacation resort.

Restaurants:

Dining facilities in the Brackettville area are extremely limited. Catered meals for groups are available at reasonable prices in the Alamo Village cantina by prior arrangement with the management. (See **Points of Contact**.)

Points of Contact:

Mrs. Virginia Shahan
Alamo Village
P.O. Box 528
Brackettville, Texas 78832
830-563-2580
830-563-9226 (Fax)

Mr. Kurt Partlow
President
Fort Clark Springs Gun Club
Fort Clark Springs
Brackettville, Texas 78832
830-563-9608
KURTPARTLOW @ SBCGLOBAL-MET

References:

“Alamo Staff Ride Study Guide,” History Section, Leader Training Center, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, 1996.

William C. Davis, **Three Roads to the Alamo** (New York; Harper Collins Publishers, 1998).

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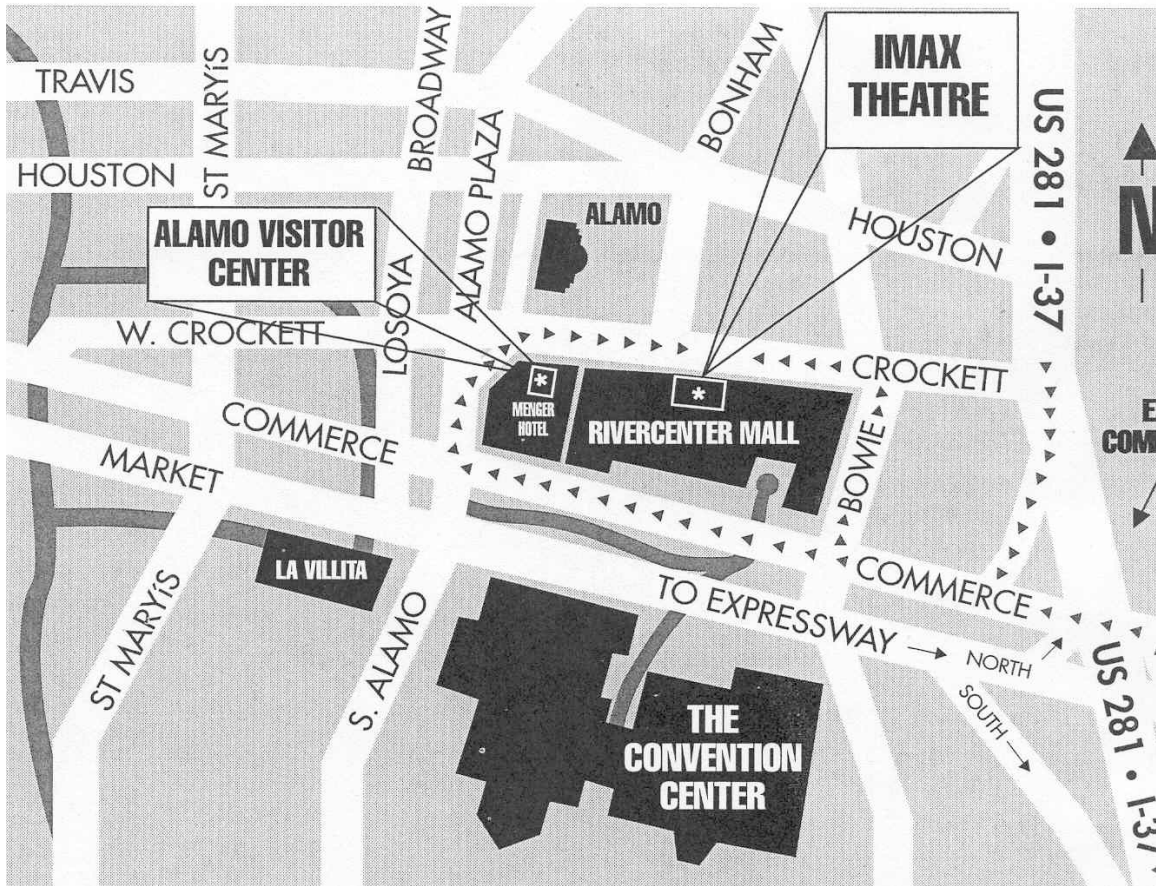
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Lon Tinkle, **The Alamo** (New York: Signet Books, 1958).

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**MAP
ALAMO**



IMAX CORPORATION

V. GOLIAD AND COLETO CREEK (1836)

Summary:

Long overshadowed by the epic of the Alamo, the story of James W. Fannin's ill-starred command at Goliad constitutes the nadir of the rebels' fortunes in the Texas War for Independence. A West Point dropout and former Georgia militia officer, young Fannin had distinguished himself during the fighting around San Antonio in the autumn of 1835. He had been rewarded with command of the growing garrison of volunteers quartered at the old Spanish presidio of Goliad, approximately ninety miles southwest of Travis' post at the Alamo.

Assuming command in early February 1836, Fannin kept his men busy improving the defenses of the stonewalled fort as new arrivals from the United States swelled their ranks to approximately 400 men by the time Santa Anna arrived in San Antonio on February 23 to begin the siege of the Alamo. Fannin made a half-hearted attempt to come to Travis' aid before abandoning the effort as he was compelled to confront a direct threat to his own position from Brigadier General Urrea, who was advancing northward from Matamoras to strike at Goliad.

Eventually ordered to abandon the presidio and fall back east of the Guadalupe River in order to join other Texian forces in the wake of the Alamo's fall on March 6, Fannin procrastinated, losing a large portion of his force to the advancing Urrea when he sent two detachments twenty-six miles southward to the village of Refugio on an ill-advised mission to evacuate civilian refugees and chastise enemy guerrillas. Fannin did not leave Goliad until the morning of March 19. His lack of preparation for the march and insistence upon dragging along a large ordnance train resulted in Urrea overtaking his column and forcing it to halt and deploy on the open prairie a few miles short of a viable defensive position along the banks of Coleto Creek.

Short of food and water but full of fight, Fannin's men held off the Mexicans by adopting a hollow square formation with their artillery posted at the corners. Inflicting severe losses on Urrea's cavalry and infantry, the volunteers stood their ground until the arrival of Mexican artillery before dawn on the 20th rendered their densely ranked hollow square formation fatally vulnerable to enemy artillery fire. Compelled to surrender or be annihilated, Fannin's men entered confinement in the presidio they had departed only the day before. Held under guard for a week, most of them (an estimated 350 men) were executed by Santa Anna's direct orders on March 27, 1836. This defeat left Sam Houston to confront Santa Anna's forces with an army that numbered less than 900 men at the time of the decisive battle at San Jacinto on April 21.

Location:

The Presidio la Bahia at Goliad is located approximately two miles south of the modern town of Goliad on Highway 183 South. (Note: Do not mistake the presidio with the contemporary mission, which is located a short distance north of the military post on the west side of the road.) Sitting on the south bank of the San Antonio River, the current presidio is a masterful restoration of the original structure. Admission to the presidio is \$3.00 per adult. The so-called battlefield of Coleto Creek hosts a state park located approximately nine miles east of Goliad and south of State Highway 59. Park admission is \$ 1.00 per person.

Directions:

Depart San Antonio via Highway I-35 South to its intersections with Highway I-37 South. Follow Highway I-37 South to its junction with Highway 181 South. Follow Highway 181 South via Floresville, Poth, Falls City, Karnes City, to Kenedy. At Kenedy turn left at the intersection of Highway 181 South and Highway 72. Follow Highway 72 to its intersection with Highway 239. Turn right onto Highway 239/59 and follow it into the modern town of Goliad.

In Goliad, turn right at the intersection of Highway 239/59 and Highway 183 South. Follow Highway 183 South across the San Antonio River bridge. Shortly after crossing the river make a left turn onto Highway 71 and then a right turn into the parking lot of the Presidio la Bahia (Stop 1).

After visiting the presidio return to vehicle and proceed north out of the parking lot to the intersection with Hensley Road. Turn left onto Hensley Road and proceed downslope toward the river. Follow the road as it swings to the right. Halt at the last gate entrance on the left. This is the old Kelly residence. This property should not be entered without the prior knowledge and consent of the owner, Mrs. Mauryne H. Kelly. (See **Points of Contact**.) Dismount and walk through the gate for approximately fifty yards. The copse of trees in the open pasture to your right (east) marks one of the three execution sites for Fannin's men located outside of the presidio. Discuss the manner of the executions and their significance in the later course of events in the Texans' struggle for independence (Stop 2).

Return to your vehicle. Proceed northward through the gate and follow the fenceline on the right for approximately one thousand yards to the treeline and intersection with another fenceline. Open gate to the right and proceed eastward. (Remember to close the gate after you in order to prevent any cattle from straying.) Drive slowly along the treeline. Watch for a deerstand perched in a grove of trees to the right. This is located opposite of the point where the old San Antonio-Copano Bay Road entered the treeline to the left to reach the ford on the San Antonio River. Halt. Dismount from vehicle and enter the treeline to the left to follow the swale (depression) marking the old roadbed down to the site overlooking the old ford (Stop 3). (This is also the weapons

shoot site. Firing should be directed downslope toward the river.) Discuss the importance of the ford and the reasons for Fannin's delay at this point. Conduct the period weapons shoot here if so desired.

Return to your vehicle. Backtrack through the gate to the old Kelly house site and presidio to reach Highway 183. Proceed north on Highway 183 back through Goliad to the intersection with Highway 59. Turn right and follow Highway 59 eastward for approximately nine miles to the hamlet of Fannin and its intersection with Highway 2506. Turn right onto Highway 2506 and follow it southward to the entrance of the Coletto Battleground State Historic Site. Turn left into the park and pay admission. Proceed to the right via the park road to the overlook and pavilion area east of the obelisk marking Fannin's position. Dismount at this point (Stop 4). Discuss the course of the Texian withdrawal from the presidio, the Mexican pursuit, Fannin's decision to halt and deploy on this site, the battle, and the subsequent surrender.

Points of Contact:

Mr. Newton Warzchecha
Curator
Presidio La Bahia
P.O. Box 57
Goliad, TX 77963
361-645-3752

Mrs. Mauryne H. Kelly (Execution site, River ford site, Weapons-firing site)
P.O. Box 976
247 West Franklin
Goliad, TX 77963
361-645-8152

(Mrs. Kelly owns property encompassing two of the three execution sites located outside of the presidio and the original ford on the San Antonio River utilized by Fannin during his retreat on March 19, 1836.)

Director
Fannin Battleground State Historic Site
P.O. Box 66
Fannin, TX 77960
361-645-2020

Range Facilities:

Staff ride facilitators may elect to conduct a period weapons shoot for participants at the old fording site on the San Antonio River, approximately a mile north of the

presidio. Prior permission should be obtained from Mrs. Kelly for any such activities on that site.

Restaurants:

There are several fast-food and conventional restaurants located in the modern town of Goliad, but past experience has shown that the most convenient and enjoyable restaurant in the area is the La Bahia, located a few hundred yards south of the presidio on the Refugio Highway (U.S. 183/77A South). The food is good, portions are large and the prices are reasonable amid a décor which reflects the history of the area. POC is at 361-645-3651.

References:

“Goliad Staff Ride Study Guide,” History Section, Leader Training Center, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, 1996.

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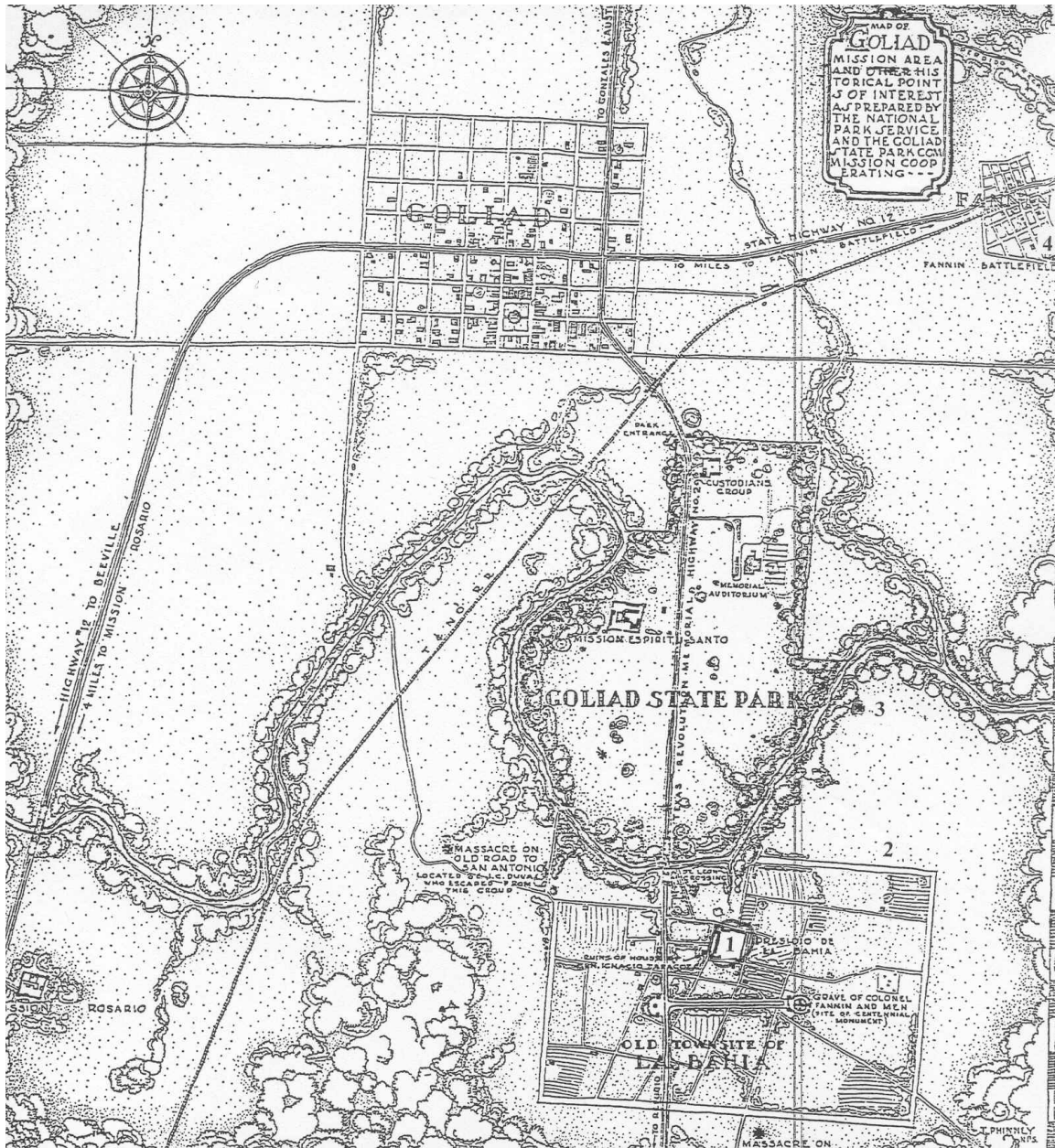
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Maps:

General Highway Map, Goliad County, State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1969.

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MAP GOLIAD



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

VI. BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO (1836)

Summary:

The decisive battle of the Texas War for Independence, it was fought by a Texian army which was on the verge of mutiny against its commander, Sam Houston, after five weeks of retreat before the advancing Mexican forces. Realizing that the defeat and destruction of his ragtag force would mean the end of the Republic of Texas, Houston had pursued a Fabian strategy of trading space for time as he watched and waited for the opportune time and place at which to strike at the invaders. Some students of the campaign believe that he was deliberately attempting to lure Santa Anna close to the Texas-American border so that an incident could be staged which would give the U.S. Army an excuse to enter the conflict on the Texans' side.

Compelled to make a stand and fight by his sullen troops, and acting upon captured intelligence, Houston occupied a position with the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou barring any hope of escape to his rear while hurling his 850-900 man force against Santa Anna and the 1200-man lead detachment of his army on the marsh-hemmed plain of San Jacinto. Santa Anna's complete lack of elementary security precautions allowed Houston to strike his sleeping camp by surprise in the late afternoon of April 21, 1836, and shatter any vestiges of organized resistance within eighteen minutes. The pursuit and slaughter of several hundred fleeing Mexican troops followed for several hours thereafter. Santa Anna was captured on the following day and compelled to order his army to withdraw from Texas after recognizing its independence. Thus within eighteen minutes was laid the groundwork for the later Mexican-American War of 1846-48, the addition of California and the Southwest to the Union, the rise of sectional tensions over the possible expansion of slavery into the newly won territories, and the political schisms which ultimately resulted in the American Civil War.

Location:

The San Jacinto Battleground State Park is located on the eastern rim of the Houston Metroplex, 22 miles to the east of the downtown area, off Highway 225 at LaPorte, TX.

Directions:

Depart San Antonio, Texas via Interstate Highway 10 East. Proceed for 187.2 miles to Houston. Continue for 7.8 miles. At Exit 768B take the exit to Interstate Highway 45 (US 75) towards I- 45/ Galveston. Proceed for 0.1 miles to Exit 40B. At Exit 40B take exit to I-610/TX 35/I-610W/TX-225/Pearland-Alvin/Pasadena.

Keep right to stay on ramp towards I-610/TX-225/Pasadena for 0.3. miles. Keep left to stay on ramp towards I-610/TX-225 for another 0.1 miles. Take exit ramp left onto I-610 towards I-610/TX-225 at 1.3 miles.

At Exit 30B at 0.1 miles turn right onto ramp towards TX-225/Pasadena/LaPorte. At 10.2 miles take ramp left onto SR-225 (LaPorte Highway). Take ramp to right at 0.5 miles and at head of ramp make left turn onto SR-134 (Battleground Road). Follow SR-134 northward for 3.4 miles to reach park entrance on left. Turn into park and proceed to parking areas vicinity of battleship U.S.S. Texas. Park and dismount. Proceed on foot southward to Houston's campsite.

Points of Contact:

Live-firing of period weapons cannot be conducted at the San Jacinto State Historical Park. Firing of blank ammunition with period weapons can be conducted if prior coordination is made with the park staff. POCs are:

Jerry Hopkins
281-479-2431

John Ferguson
281-479-2431 ext. 238

Any staff ride to San Jacinto should incorporate a viewing of the film, **TEXAS FOREVER!**, in the theater located adjacent to the museum in the base of the monument. A military discount is available for the tickets (\$2.00 each), which should be reserved in advance. Theater schedule and ticket purchase POC is at:

713-479-2421.

Restaurants:

Past experience with U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School staff rides to San Jacinto has established that the Monument Inn, a nearby restaurant located adjacent to Lynch's Ferry in the area immediately north of the state park, is the most convenient place for concluding the exercise with a luncheon or evening meal. POC is:

Monument Inn Restaurant
4406 Battleground Road
LaPorte, TX 77571
713-479-1521
Fax 281-479-8102
www.monumentinn.com

References:

Wayne R. Austerman and Major Allison P. Clark, editors, **The Battle of San Jacinto Staff Ride Battle Book** (Fort Sam Houston, Texas: Military Science Division, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, 1992).

Seymour V. Connor, "The Battle of San Jacinto," in Seymour V. Connor, et. al., **Battles of Texas** (Waco: Texian Press, 1967).

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Al Nofi, **The Alamo and the Texas War for Independence** (Conshohocken, Pennsylvania: Combined Books, Incorporated, 1992).

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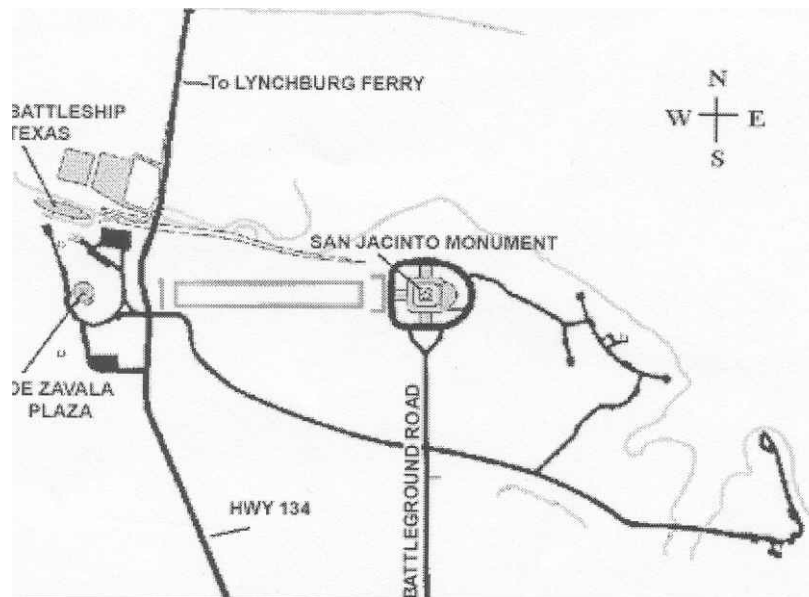
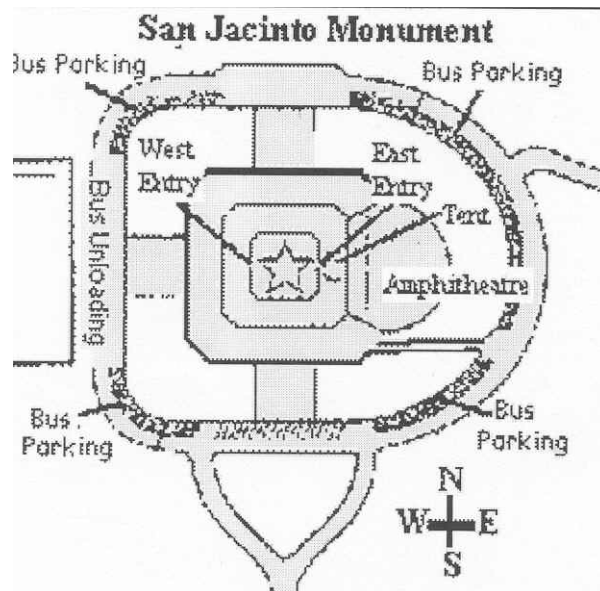
Maps:

The Battle of San Jacinto: A Map of the Battle ground on April 21, 1836 (LaPorte, Texas: San Jacinto Museum of History, San Jacinto Monument, 1989).

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United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Maps, 1: 24000. **La Porte, Highlands**.

MAP SAN JACINTO



TEXAS STATE PARKS DEPARTMENT

VII. PLUM CREEK (1840)

Summary:

In August 1840, the Penetaka Comanche chief Buffalo Hump led a thousand tribesmen on a raid which carried them southeastward down from the Edwards Plateau to cross the Colorado River south of Austin and lance deeply into the line of settlement, killing and plundering as they proceeded. The Comanches rode all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, where they captured and looted the town of Linnville. As Texian militia companies rallied in pursuit of the raiders they swung about and followed their original trail westward for the sanctuary of their own territory.

On August 12 a force of 200 Texians led by Major General Felix Huston intercepted the Indians along Plum Creek in the vicinity of modern Lockhart, southeast of Austin. A running fight for over five miles culminated in the Comanches making a stand at Kelly Springs, northwest of Lockhart. A Texian charge killed several Indian leaders and triggered a panic-stricken rout among the braves, who were pursued for another fifteen miles. The Comanches suffered severe losses as a result of this largest and most far-ranging Indian raid in the history of Texas. Huston's egotism and tactical ineptitude almost defeated the Texians, but he ultimately heeded the wise counsel of such veterans as Mathew Caldwell and Edward Burleson.

Location:

The maneuver box for the Battle of Plum Creek stretches from a point roughly six miles east of Lockhart to one six miles to the west, and from a point approximately six miles to the south of town to one nearly three miles to the north. The McDonald's restaurant located on Highway 183 South in Lockhart is a convenient landmark and easily found rendezvous/start point for the staff ride in the local area.

Directions:

Depart San Antonio via Interstate Highway 10 East. Follow I-10 eastward past Seguin to reach the exit (Exit 628) for Luling. From Luling take Highway 183 North to Lockhart. At the intersection of Highway 183 and FM 20 make a right turn onto FM 20 North and follow it for 6.9 miles to the intersection with Old Colony Line Road. Turn right onto Old Colony Line Road and halt. Dismount (Stop 1). Discuss the significance of the recently surveyed 1839 Austin-Gonzales Road to military operations in the region.

Return to your vehicles and proceed west toward Lockhart on FM 20 for 1.2 miles to reach the Isham Goode cabin marker on the righthand side of road. Halt and dismount (Stop 2).

Discuss the role of the Goode settlement as Texian rendezvous site prior to battle. Return to your vehicles. Proceed southward on FM 20 for 1 mile to the intersection with Brite Road. Turn right onto Brite Road. Proceed northward for .3 miles to the intersection with Old Kelly Road (County Road 186). Turn left onto Old Kelly Road. Proceed westward for 2.1 miles to the bridge at Goode's Crossing on Plum Creek. Halt and dismount (Stop 3). Discuss the assembly of Texian forces at this point on 11 August 1840 and their dispatch of a patrol southward that evening to provide warning of enemy approach on the following morning.

Return to your vehicles. Proceed 1.4 miles to the intersection with FM 20. Turn right onto FM 20. Follow FM 20 for 1.1 miles to the intersection with FM 1322. Turn left onto FM 1322. Follow this road for 1.1 miles south to the intersection with Seawillow Road (County Road 205). Follow Seawillow Road for 3.7 miles to the intersection with a ranch road access gate on the lefthand side of road. (Note: the landmark for this point is mailbox No. 3430 and a house on the righthand side of road, which has a small silo sitting in the yard. The silo has the word "Sioux" painted upon it.) Access to the property beyond this gate must be arranged for with Mr. Donaly Brice. (See **Points of Contact**.) Turn left through the gate after unlocking it. Follow the road bearing right down off the high ground to drive past a stock pond and cabin for 1.2 miles to reach "Comanche Flats". Halt and dismount (Stop 4.) The treeline in the middle distance marks the course of Plum Creek. Discuss the events at this initial contact point between the Texians and Comanches.

(Note: At this point after visiting Comanche Flats, the AMEDDC&S staff ride groups typically return to Lockhart for lunch and a period weapons shoot on the Lockhart Police Department range. Eating places are plentiful along Highway 183. Access to the Lockhart Police Department range is granted on a very restricted basis to selected groups. See **Points of Contact**.)

Return to the gate and intersection with Seawillow Road. Proceed north on Seawillow Road for 3.7 miles to the intersection with FM 1322. Follow FM 1322 back to its intersection with FM 20. Turn left onto FM 20. Proceed toward the intersection with Highway 183. Turn left at the Dairy Queen and follow FM 20 South for 3.6 miles to its intersection with Old Fentress Road.

Turn right onto Old Fentress Road. Follow it for 1.9 miles as it curves back to the northeast to arrive at the grove of trees marking site of Kelly Springs. Proceed past the private residence and ranch road gates on the right and pull off the road at the first convenient point and park.. Halt and dismount (Stop 5.) With the prior knowledge and consent of the property owner, Mrs. Linda Armstrong Swayze (See **Points of Contact**), walk back to the ranch road gate and climb over it, taking care not to damage it. (Should the gate be open, do not drive down this road for any reason. No visitors' vehicles are allowed on the property.)

Proceed south through the grove of trees and up rising ground toward the large shed which marks the southern fenceline on the property. Do not molest the cattle and

throw nothing on the ground which they might ingest. Upon arrival at the fenceline adjoining the shed you will have a clear view across the cotton fields which mark the route of the Texian approach to the Comanches as they deployed to fight a delaying action in the grove of trees. The Texians stopped some distance south (150 yards) of this point and a lengthy skirmish ensued, followed by a decisive mounted charge by the Texians, which broke the Indian line and swept the braves northward through the grove of trees in the direction of the rest of the tribesmen, who were attempting to cross Boggy Creek at a point several miles to the north. Discuss the progress of the skirmish and charge, with emphasis upon the key decisions made by the Texians and their ability to read their opponents' psychology.

Return to your vehicles and proceed along Old Fentress Road for .6 miles to the intersection with County Road 219. Turn left onto County Road 219. Proceed for 1 mile to the intersection with Borchert Loop Road. Turn left and follow Borchert Loop Road for .6 miles to the bridge crossing of Boggy Creek. Proceed past the bridge and pull off to park on the righthand side of road. Walk back to the bridge (Stop 6). Discuss the climax of the battle and heavy Comanche losses at this site, followed by the subsequent pursuit of the fleeing Indians to the northwest and the Texian return to encamp at Kelly Springs on night of 12 August 1840. Conduct the Integration and Critique phases of staff ride at this point if you wish. Depart via the most convenient route for your point of origin or other destination.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Mr. Donaly Brice

(Author of **The Great Comanche Raid**, definitive study of the Battle of Plum Creek.

Property owner for "Comanche Flats" site.)

731 South Commerce

Lockhart, TX 78644

DONALY.BRICE @ TSL.STATE.TX.US

512-376-6109

Mrs. Linda Armstrong Swayze

(Property owner at Kelly Springs site.)

555 Old Fentress Road

Lockhart, TX 78644

512-376-5749

Captain Frank Coggins

(Access to Lockhart PD range for optional weapons shoot.)

Chief

Lockhart Police Department

214 Bufkin Lane

Lockhart, TX 78644

512-398-4401

References:

“Battle of Plum Creek Staff Ride Study Guide,” History Section, Leader Training Center, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, 2000.

Donaly Brice, **The Great Comanche Raid** (Austin: Eakin Press, 1987).

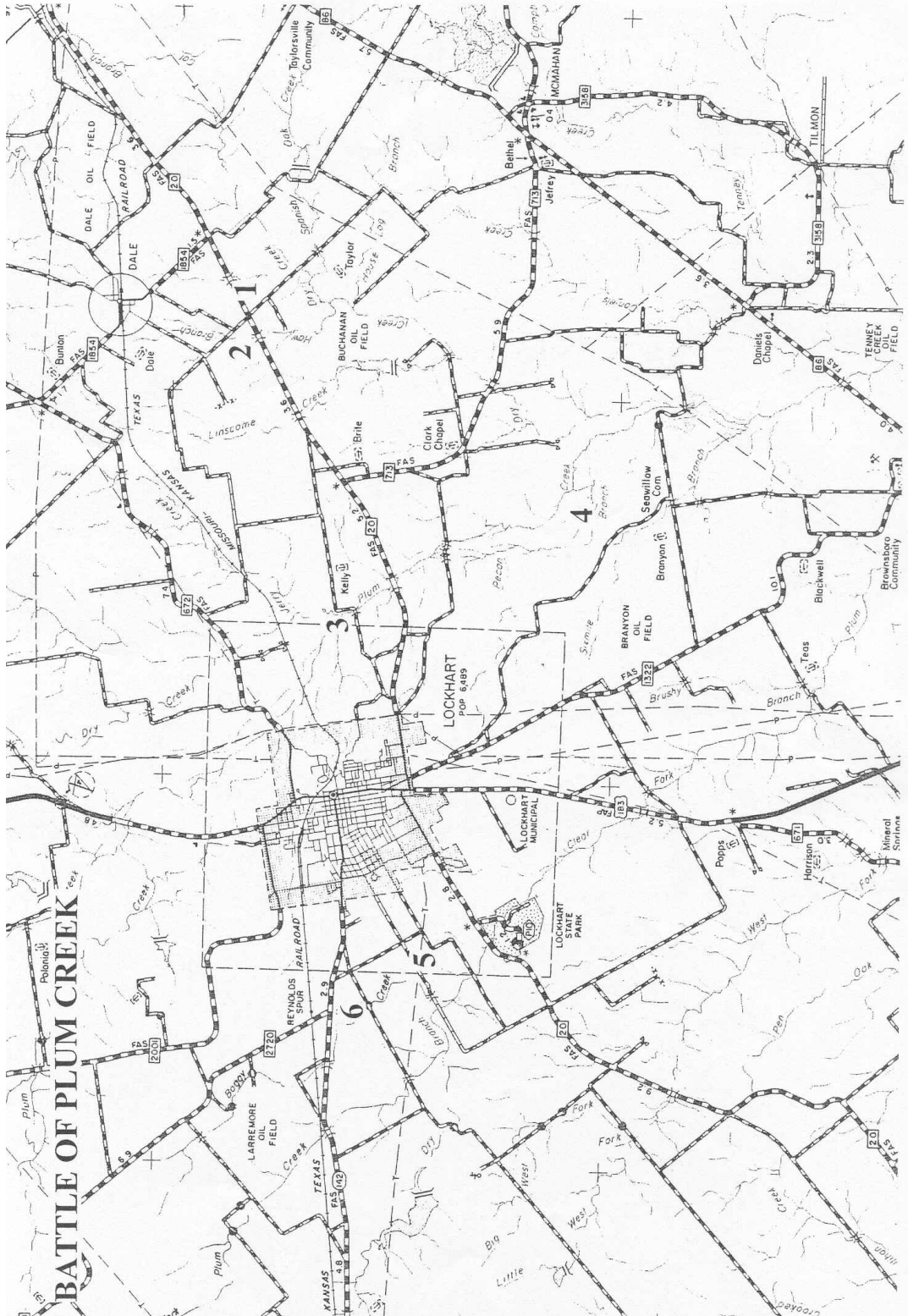
Peck Westmoreland, Jr., “The Battle of Plum Creek,” in Seymour V. Connor, et. al., **Battles of Texas** (Waco: Texian Press, 1967).

Maps:

General Highway Map, **Caldwell County**. State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1964.

United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Maps, 1:24000. **Lockhart North Quadrangle, Lockhart South, McMahan.**

MAP PLUM CREEK



VIII. BANDERA PASS (1841)

Summary:

In the spring of 1841 Captain Jack Hays led his company of Texas Rangers west from their camp on Leon Creek on the outskirts of San Antonio. The company probed the Medina River Valley for sign of Comanche war parties for several days before encamping on the banks of the river near the site of modern Bandera. The next morning the forty rangers broke camp and rode northward, bound for Bandera Pass, which marked the divide between the Medina and the adjoining Guadalupe River Valley.

The Texians did not know that their presence in the area had already been detected by scouts from a large Comanche war party, which was even then preparing an ambush for them in the narrow maw of the pass. Proceeding a dozen miles northward that morning, Hays became overconfident and careless in the absence of any sign of Indians, and had no point element deployed as his unit entered the pass, which was 500 yards long and 125 yards across at its widest point. In places the rocky walls rose to over seventy-five feet above the old trail which threaded through the gap.

The Comanche chieftain had deployed part of his force afoot, concealed amid the slopes of the pass, while the remainder was held mounted and concealed at the northern end of the defile, ready to charge down upon the enemy when the trap was sprung. Over a hundred braves awaited the Texians' arrival in the killing zone. When the ambushers opened fire Hays knew that any attempt to break contact and withdraw would be overrun by the mounted braves. He ordered his men to dismount and tie their horses' reins to the brush before deploying in a skirmish line across the floor of the pass. An hour-long face to face fight followed, during which the Texians repulsed repeated Indian assaults. The Comanches finally gave up and withdrew to the northern end of the pass while the rangers fell back to the southern entrance to tend their wounded and bury their dead. The firepower provided by several newly acquired Colt pistols and revolving rifles had helped them avert disaster in a bloody encounter, which left five of them dead and six wounded. The Comanche losses were heavier. Hays served another seven years as a Texas Ranger officer. He was never ambushed again.

Location:

Bandera Pass is located approximately ten miles north of the town of Bandera on Texas Highway 173 North. The battle area is approximately thirty-eight miles northwest of the San Antonio city limits and sixty-two miles from Fort Sam Houston.

Directions:

Depart San Antonio via Highway 410 West to reach the exit (13A) for Highway 16 North (Bandera Road). Follow Highway 16 North for thirty-eight miles to Bandera. At the intersection of Highway 16 North and Highway 173 in Bandera, turn left onto Highway 173 South. Proceed for 0.4 miles to the intersection with Highway 1077. Turn right onto Highway 1077. Proceed for 0.7 miles to reach the entrance to the Bandera Gun Club on the left. The period weapons shoot may be conducted here if desired (Stop 1).

Depart the gun club and return to Highway 173. Turn left onto Highway 173 North in direction of town. Halt in the parking area on the southern end of the bridge over the Medina River. Discuss the Texas Ranger camp near this site on the night before the battle (Stop 2).

Depart the south end of bridge and proceed north to the intersection of Highway 173 and Highway 16. Proceed through the intersection and drive northward for 0.5 miles to the division of Highway 16 North and Highway 173 North. Turn right onto Highway 173 North. Follow the road north for 9.7 miles to a "Private Road" sign on the righthand side of the road. Halt just past the sign on the right shoulder of Highway 173 North and dismount. Walk up the driveway to gate (Stop 3). This vantage point is 500 yards south of the entrance to Bandera Pass. Discuss Hays' lack of security at this point.

Return to your vehicles. Proceed northward at approximately 10 miles per hour for 0.7 miles into the pass and halt on the opposite side of the road from the historical marker. Dismount, Watch for traffic. This is the ambush site (Stop 4). Discuss the events of the ambush and Hays' leadership. Conduct the Integration and Critique phases on this site if you so desire.

Return to your vehicles. Proceed northward for one mile to the Camp Verde General Store. Halt for comfort stop (Stop 5). Camp Verde historic site is a short distance west on a farm road and a visit to that post may be easily conducted if desired.

Range Facilities:

The AMEDDC&S staff ride to this site utilizes the Bandera Gun Club range for a period weapons shoot. The club is located a short distance south of town at 809 Ranch Road off Highway 1077 (see map). The range fee is \$5.00 per shooter. POC is:

Mr. J.M. Clements
Route 1 P.O. Box 506
Bandera, TX 78003
830-796-4610.

Restaurants:

An established tourist site, Bandera is filled with restaurants. A popular one with staff ride groups has been the OST (Old Spanish Trail) Restaurant on Highway 173 North in downtown Bandera. In business since 1921, it is both an eating establishment and a shrine to the memory of “The Duke,” John Wayne. POC is:

Old Spanish Trail Restaurant
305 Main and Cypress
Bandera, TX 78003
210-796-3836

References:

“Battle of Bandera Pass Staff Ride Study Guide,” History Section, Leader Training Center, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, 2002.

O. Clark Fisher, “Battle of Bandera Pass,” in B.W. Allred, editor, **Great Western Indian Fights** (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 41-45.

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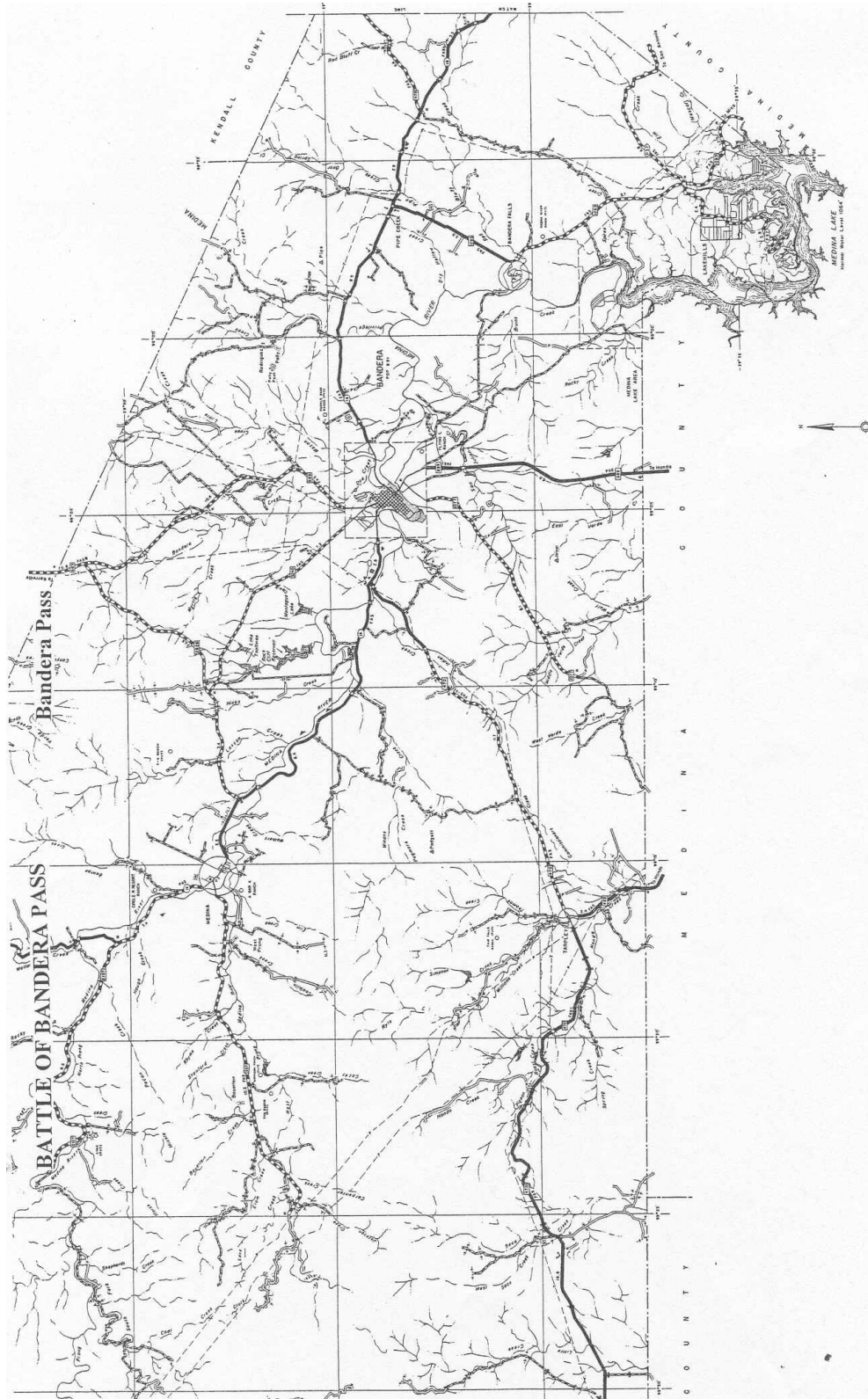
A.J. Sowell, **Early Settlers and Indian Fighters of Southwest Texas** (New York: Argosy-Antiquarian Ltd., 1964), two volumes, II: 20-24, 317-19.

Maps:

General Highway Map, **Bandera County**, State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1964.

United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Map. 1:24000. **Bandera Pass**.

MAP BANDERA PASS



IX. SALADO CREEK AND THE DAWSON MASSACRE (1842)

Summary:

The Mexican government refused to acknowledge the independence of Texas following Santa Anna's defeat in 1836, and launched several raids into what it continued to regard as a rebellious province to impress upon the Texians the fact that they were still at risk of being compelled to accept Mexican rule. In the summer of 1842 General Adrian Woll led such a foray into Texas to seize and occupy San Antonio on August 11 with a force of 1300 troops.

News of the invasion spread quickly and Texian militia forces rallied to confront Woll's incursion. Major Jack Hays and his company of Texas Rangers kept watch on the Mexicans and harassed them while in the village of Seguin veteran plainsman Mathew Caldwell assembled a militia force and rode west to establish and advanced camp on Cibolo Creek, about twenty miles to the northeast of San Antonio. On September 17 Caldwell and 210 men moved to a position on Salado Creek selected by Hays. It was approximately six miles from San Antonio and utilized the eastern bank of the creekbed as a natural breastwork as Caldwell prepared to lure Woll into attacking him there.

On the following morning Hays led his rangers into the outskirts of town, seeking to provoke the enemy into pursuing him back to Caldwell's position. He did not know that Woll had already decided to depart San Antonio and was ready to begin the march when the Texians appeared to bait him. Mexican cavalry immediately gave chase to Hays, who drew them across Salado Creek to the north of Caldwell's position and then led them southward down the east bank of the creek valley to where the Texians lay in wait.

Skirmishing immediately erupted between the Mexican horsemen and the Texian riflemen, with several charges meeting repulses with heavy losses. The cavalrymen sent for help and Woll arrived on the scene with infantry and artillery. After a totally ineffective artillery bombardment Woll launched attacks against the Texian left and right flanks, which were handily repulsed, followed by a series of fruitless frontal attacks. The Texian line remained unbroken as evening approached and the Mexican casualties mounted.

In mid-afternoon as the battle raged along the creek a detachment of 53 volunteers led by Captain Nicholas M. Dawson approached from the east and attempted to reach Caldwell's position, but were intercepted by Mexican cavalry en route and were forced to dismount and assume a defensive position in a grove of mesquite trees on the plains a little more than a mile from Caldwell's lines. Dawson's men held their ground, inflicting severe losses on the Mexican cavalry until Woll dispatched artillery to the scene. The shelling killed many of Dawson's horses and inflicted casualties among his men, who

were soon overrun by the Mexican cavalry. Thirty-six Texians died and of the fifteen taken prisoner, five had severe wounds. Two men escaped in the confusion.

Taking solace from his annihilation of Dawson, Woll abandoned the fight with Caldwell, declared a victory, and marched back to San Antonio. He departed town the next day and confronted only a desultory pursuit by Texan forces after a skirmish on the Blanco River.

Texian losses in the two actions totaled ten wounded and one killed in action among Caldwell's command. Woll claimed to have killed sixty of Caldwell's 300 troops, while suffering twenty-nine dead and fifty-eight wounded of his own, in addition to having killed 120 of Dawson's alleged 150 men in that engagement. Caldwell estimated that his force had killed thirty and wounded sixty to seventy of Woll's command. Another Texian present in Caldwell's ranks claimed that Woll suffered 104 dead on Salado Creek and another 150 wounded, of whom forty-eight were dead by the next day.

Location:

The Caldwell battle site on Salado Creek is located along Holbrook Road, just north of where it passes beneath the Rittiman Road overpass of the watercourse. The only remaining vestige of the Dawson Massacre battle site rests in the area between Fairdale Road on the west, Rittiman Road on the south, and Interstate Highway 35 to the east. The state historical markers commemorating this battle have been moved to a totally unrelated site located some distance to the west for reasons which remain obscure.

Directions:

To reach the Salado Creek battlefield proceed down Interstate Highway 35 South to the Rittiman Road exit. Proceed westward (right) on Rittiman Road across the creek to the intersection with Grantham Road. Turn right on Grantham and proceed for a block and half before pulling to the side of the road and parking. Dismount and walk eastward into the treeline (Stop 1). This site affords a seasonal (autumn and winter) view from high ground looking down on the Texian position from the rear. This stop is optional.

Return to your vehicles and reverse direction on Grantham to reach Rittiman Road and make a left turn back onto it. Proceed eastward on Rittiman to the intersection with Aina Road. Turn right on Aina and follow it down to its intersection with Holbrook Road. Make a right turn onto Holbrook Road and drive along the creek, passing the Black Swan Inn on the right as you proceed. Upon reaching the state historical marker on the right, pull off to the roadside on the left and park. Dismount and inspect the Texian position along the creek to the south of the historical marker (Stop 2). Discuss Captain Jack Hays' and his Texas Rangers' defense of the Texian left flank. Walk down the length of the Texian line to the south where a concrete spillway empties Walzem Creek into Salado Creek. The original bed of Walzem Creek at this point sheltered an

unsuccessful flank attack led by Colonel Cordova, who died trying to turn Caldwell's right flank (Stop 3) While walking Caldwell's frontage pause to discuss and analyze the course of Woll's attacks upon him and the Texian countermeasures.

To reach the Dawson Massacre site return to your vehicles and proceed southward on Holbrook Road to the intersection with Aina Road. Make a left turn on Aina and follow it back to Rittiman Road. Make a right turn onto Rittiman Road and follow it eastward to its intersection with Fairdale Road. Make a left turn onto Fairdale and proceed north to a "Children Crossing" sign. Turn right into a residential parking area. Dismount and walk eastward to the fenceline to view the remnants of battle site area fronting on Interstate Highway 35 (Stop 4). Discuss the course of the action and analyze the Mexican and Texian moves. Conduct the Integration and Critique phases on this site if you so choose.

Range Facilities:

If an optional period weapons shoot is included in the staff ride the most conveniently available range is located northeast of San Antonio, off Marbach Road, at the Bracken Range. (See map in Section IV.)

Restaurants:

Numerous restaurants of all types are easily accessible near both of the battle sites.

References:

"Battle of Salado Creek/Dawson Massacre Staff Ride Study Guide," History Section, Leader Training Center, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, 2003.

Wayne R. Austerman, "The Salado Battle and Dawson Massacre," **Wild West**, Volume XVII, No. 3 (October 2004), 46-52, 74.

Wayne R. Austerman, "Old and New Arms Technologies Clashed at the Battle of Salado Creek and During the Dawson Massacre," **Wild West**, Volume XVII, No. 3 (October 2004), 20-22, 59.

M.A. Sanchez Lamego, **The Second Mexican-Texas War 1841-1843** (Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College, 1972).

Joseph M. Nance, **Attack and Counterattack: The Texas-Mexican Frontier, 1842** (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1964).

Gerald S. Pierce. **Texas Under Arms: The Camps, Posts, Forts & Military Towns of the Republic of Texas 1836-1846** (Austin: Encino Press, 1969).

Maps:

General Highway Map, **Bexar County**, State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1977.

United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Maps. 1:24000. **San Antonio East**.

[illegible]

X. BATTLE OF FORT LANCASTER (1867)

Summary:

In 1866 Congress added six regiments composed of black soldiers to the ranks of the regular U.S. Army. Four of them were infantry units, while the rest were cavalry. Two of them, the 41st Infantry and the 9th Cavalry, were posted to Texas early in 1867. The 9th Cavalry was initially headquartered at San Pedro Springs on the outskirts of San Antonio. The new unit got off to a rocky start when a mutiny flared among several companies, leaving an officer and an enlisted man dead in the flurry of violence. The new regiment was thus tainted by scandal even before it saw duty on the frontier.

In December of 1867 Captain William Frohock and Company K of the 9th Cavalry were manning the outpost at old Fort Lancaster on the road west of San Antonio, between Camp Hudson on the Devil's River, and Fort Stockton, the first garrison to be reestablished west of the Pecos. Frohock had fifty-eight black troopers and one white junior officer with which to patrol the road to the west and east and secure the ruins of the abandoned post.

On the afternoon of December 26 the buffalo soldiers came under attack by an estimated force of 900 Kickapoo tribesmen and a band of Anglo and Hispanic renegades, who attempted to overrun the post after stampeding and capturing its grazing horse herd. Three hours of desperate combat ensued, during which the cavalymen held the attackers at bay with their Spencer repeating carbines, while Captain Frohock's wife and sister-in-law carried ammunition to the troops in their aprons. The fight is now long forgotten, but at the time it was an epic demonstration of courage and discipline by a unit which had earlier been held suspect in the eyes of the public and the U.S. Army's senior leadership.

Location:

Fort Lancaster State Park is located 240 miles west of San Antonio on U.S. Highway 290, ten miles east of Sheffield in Crockett, County. It is in a remote area with a local shortage of eating and sleeping accommodations.

Directions:

Depart San Antonio via Interstate Highway 10 West. Proceed westward through Kerrville and Junction to Ozona, 205 miles. Exit the interstate at Ozona to conduct an optional period weapons shoot at public range south of town. (See **Points of Contact**) From the Burger King Restaurant at 704 14th Street in Ozona cross under Interstate 10 and turn left onto Highway 163 South. Proceed for approximately 1.5 miles to the intersection with Claybird Lane (gravel road). Follow the road past the locked gates on

the right to the range complex. Proceed eastward until the road arrives at an open rifle range with covered firing points.

Return to Interstate 10 West and proceed for 21.8 miles to Exit 343. Turn right onto the ramp for Highway 290/Sheffield. Proceed for 11.4 miles and turn left (south) onto State Highway 290. Then proceed for 0.4 miles to arrive at the entrance to Fort Lancaster State Historical Park.

Upon arrival at the park headquarters allot time for restroom visits and a tour of the excellent little museum which details the fort's history. Issue maps sets of the post and phases of the battle to all participants before departing the park headquarters to commence the Field Study phase of the staff ride.

Proceed northwestward from the rear entrance of the park headquarters to the site of the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Stop 1). Discuss Captain Frohock's personal background and mission in December 1867. Then proceed north and westward to the Barracks Ruins (Stop 2). Discuss the living conditions and morale of the 9th Cavalry troops at this time.

Leaving the Barracks Ruins proceed northwestward to the site of the Corral and Guardhouse (Stop 3). Discuss the significance of the Corral in the events of the battle. Identify it as a significant reference point for understanding the course of the action. Proceed northward to the site of the Sutler's House and Stage Station (Stop 4). Orient the participants on the course of Live Oak Creek to the west as it flows southward to a junction with the Pecos River. Initiate a discussion of Phases 1-3 at this point. (For maps of the phases of the battle see the AMEDDC&S Leader Training Center Study Guide referenced below.)

Move back to the Corral and Guardhouse site (Stop 3) and discuss the progress of Phases 4-7 of the battle at that location. Then move eastward to the post flagpole (Stop 5) and conduct the Integration and Critique phases of the staff ride at that point or within the shade of the park headquarters.

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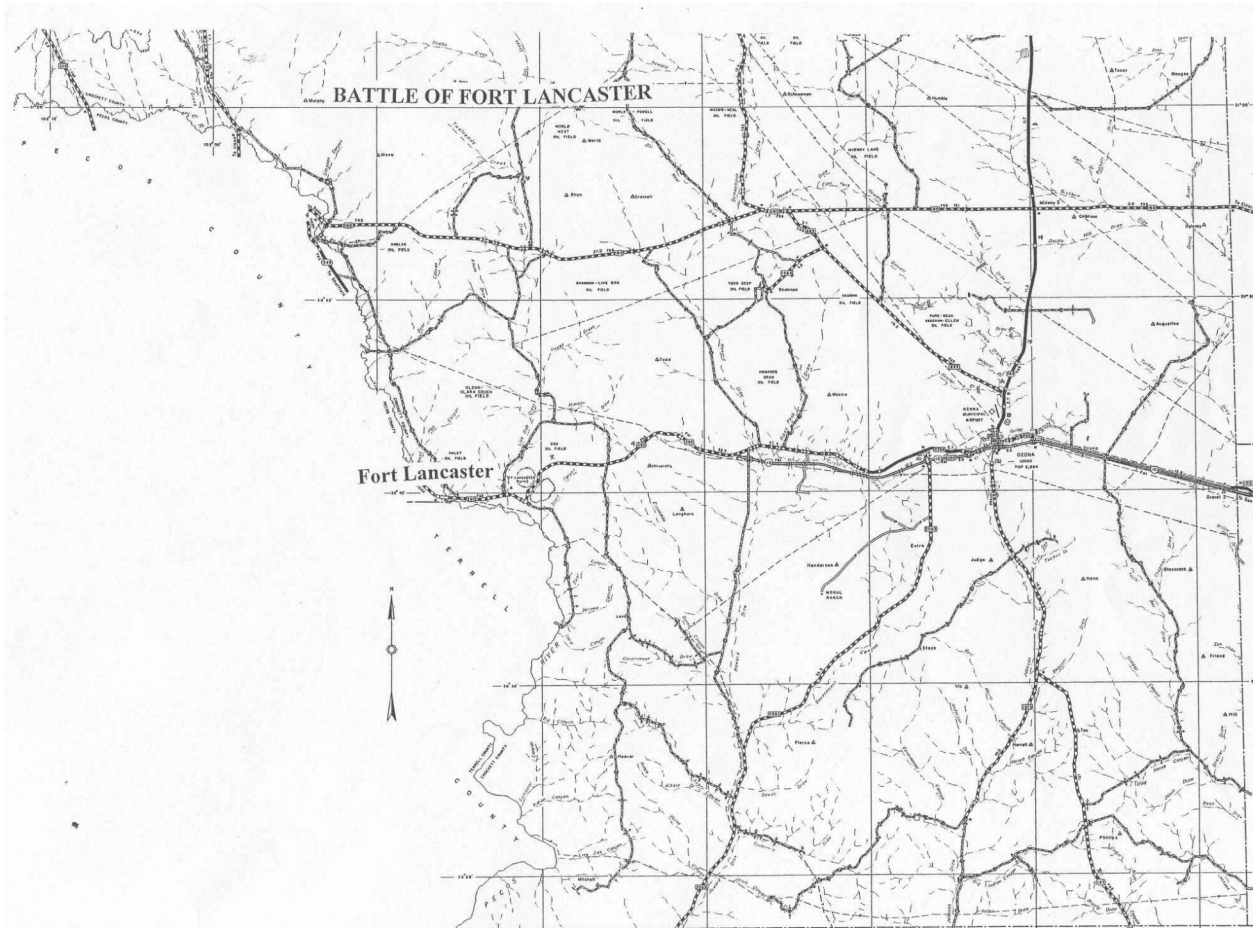
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Points of Contact:

Mr. Tom Anderson
P.O. Box 1568
Ozona, TX 76943
915-392-3773
(Ozona Range)

Richard Gruber
Park Manager
Fort Lancaster State Historic Site
PO Box 306
Sheffield, TX 79781
915-836-4391

MAP FT LANCASTER



XI. BATTLE OF PACKSADDLE MOUNTAIN (1873)

Summary:

Fought in August 1873, this classic small unit action matched eight Texas stockmen against twenty-one Apache raiders in a 25-mile pursuit which culminated in a firefight atop a mountain summit. A headlong charge into the Indian position by a wounded mule was one of the decisive elements of the engagement. The action was distinctive in part because both sides were equipped with breechloading repeating rifles.

Location:

The maneuver box for this action covers an area in southern Llano County which is roughly bounded by Highway 16 on the west, Rural Route 1323 on the south, and Highway 71 on the east and north. The major terrain features involved are Sandy Creek, the Cedar-Solomon-Bee Rock Mountain complex, Cut-Off Gap, Honey Creek, and Packsaddle Mountain. The staff ride route begins at the intersection of Highway 16 and Rural Route 965, 14.7 miles south of Llano, and terminates on Highway 71, approximately ten miles south of Llano.

Directions:

From San Antonio proceed seventy-three miles north via Highway 281 through Blanco and Johnson City to Round Mountain. At Round Mountain proceed a short distance north on Highway 281 to its intersection with Rural Route 962. Turn left onto Rural Route 962 and follow it for 10.5 miles northwest to its intersection with Highway 71. Turn left onto Highway 71 and follow it northward for 22.7 miles to its intersection with Highway 16 on the southern outskirts of Llano. If the intention is to begin the staff ride with a period weapons shoot, turn right onto Highway 16 and follow it into Llano for 1.5 miles. Halt at the intersection of Highway 16 and Highway 29. Proceed through the intersection on Highway 16 for .9 miles. Watch on the lefthand side of the road for a turnoff to the Waste Management Site and Llano Gun Club rifle range. Turn left and follow the road past the Waste Management Site office to the rifle range. Use of this range requires prior coordination with the Llano Gun Club. (See **Points of Contact**.) (NOTE: If you pass the Law Enforcement Center on the lefthand side of Highway 16, you have gone too far and missed the turnoff to the rifle range.)

Following the weapons shoot return to Llano via Highway 16 to the intersection with Highway 29. If you wish to stop for lunch at this time you may make a right turn onto Highway 29 and follow it westward a short distance to reach a variety of local restaurants. (See **Restaurants**.)

From the intersection of Highway 16 and Highway 29 proceed southward on Highway 16 for 1.5 miles to the intersection with Highway 71. Continue southward on

Highway 16 for 13.9 miles, crossing over Sandy Creek bridge, to reach the intersection of Highway 16 and Rural Route 965. Note the open gate on the lefthand side of Highway 16, opposite the intersection. A historical marker referencing the local landmark of Enchanted Rock stands adjacent to the intersection.

Make a left turn across Highway 16 and follow the ranch road through the gate to the east. Proceed for .7 miles to arrive in the vicinity of the old James R. Moss Ranch site, identified by the modern “Legion Valley Ranch” sign on the righthand side of the ranch road. Halt and dismount (Stop 1). Discuss James R. Moss’ first contact with the Indian raiders near here on 4 August 1873. (NOTE: Prior permission to enter this property must be obtained from one of the local property owners. Landowners in this area are extremely sensitive to the threats posed by vandals, stock thieves, and poachers. They are markedly hostile toward trespassers. Do not enter private property at any point on the staff ride route without explicit prior permission.) (See **Points of Contact**.) (Note: If road conditions or lack of the owner’s consent prohibit entry through the gate, park in the vicinity of the Enchanted Rock historical marker on the right side of Highway 16 and discuss the opening phases of the pursuit at that point.)

Return .7 miles to the gate on Highway 16. Turn left onto Highway 16 and follow it southward for 4.1 miles to the northern entrance to the Willow City Loop Road. Turn left onto Willow City Loop Road and follow it at a moderate speed for 3.2 miles to the Cut-Off Gap/Bee Rock Mountain vantage point (Stop 2). Halt and dismount. Discuss the route of the pursuit to this point on 5 August and the tactical factors influencing the stockmen’s movement.

Proceed eastward on Willow City Loop Road for 1.6 miles to the intersection with Click Road. (Note the “K&L Ranch” sign on the lefthand side of the road.) Halt and dismount (Stop3). Discuss the nearby location of the Martin Ranch and the significance of it in the progress of the pursuit on 5 August. (Note: Access to the old Martin Ranch is denied by the current owners.)

Proceed eastward on Willow City Loop Road for 7.9 miles to its intersection with Rural Route 1323. (Note: This intersection is poorly marked.) Turn left onto Rural Route 1323. (Note the landmark of “Harry’s Bar-B-Que” on the right as you proceed.) Follow Rural Route 1323 eastward for 5.3 miles to the intersection with the Althaus-Davis Road.

Turn left onto the Althaus-Davis Road and follow it northeastward for 7.9 miles to its intersection with County Road 309. Turn left onto County Road 309 and follow it northward for 4.8 miles to the south bank of the ford on Sandy Creek (Stop 4). Halt and dismount. Discuss the problems of crossing the ford and its potential danger as an ambush site. (Note: Do not attempt to cross at this ford if any volume of water is flowing

with speed across the concrete road pads spanning the creek. Do not attempt to ford at any point other than the concrete road pads. The sand is extremely deep and traction is poor for wheeled vehicles.)

Cross Sandy Creek on County Road 309 and proceed for 1.8 miles northward to the site of the Click settlement. County Road 309 transitions into County Road 308 near this point. Continue northward on County Road 308 for 6.6 miles successively to the Honey Creek Crossing and the junction with Highway 71.

Turn right onto Highway 71 and proceed southward for 2.9 miles to the intersection with County Road 309 on the lefthand side of the road. Turn left onto County Road 309.

Proceed eastward on County Road 309 for 500 yards to the wooden cattle pens on the lefthand side of the road. Halt and dismount (Stop 5). Discuss the course of the pursuit to this point and the stockmen's preparations to attack the Indians atop the eastern summit of Packsaddle Mountain, immediately to the north of this site. Make prior arrangement with the local property owner and enter it only under his supervision. (Note: Access to Packsaddle Mountain with the consent of the property owner is limited to Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends under his supervision. The property is completely closed from 1 November through 31 December each year, when access is restricted to deer hunters holding hunting leases. (See **Points of Contact**.)

Utilizing 4-wheel drive vehicles only, follow the property owner's designated ascending trail to the eastern summit of Packsaddle Mountain. Halt and dismount at the monument marking the battle site. Discuss the terrain, vegetation and course of the battle on this ground. Walk or drive eastward upslope to view the cleared area around the microwave relay tower and hang-glider launching ramps.

Return to the base of the mountain and County Road 309. Proceed westward to the intersection with Highway 71 and make a right turn. Proceed northward on Highway 71 for 4.4 miles to the approximate site of the Duncan House on the lefthand side of the road. Halt and dismount (Stop 6). Discuss the medical aid provided to the wounded Texans at the Duncan House. Conduct the Integration and Critique phases at this site. Return to Llano via Highway 71 for food/fuel/comfort stops as required.

Points of Contact:

Mr. Joe Hancock, President, Llano Gun Club
107 Rio Cielo
Llano, Texas 78643
325-247-1803
(Rifle range)

Ms. Lisa Pope
24 Colony Square
Angleton, Texas 77515
979-849-1128
(James R. Moss/Legion Valley Ranch site)

Dr. David Hardison
PO Box 758
Llano, Texas 78264
830-997-4955
(Residence in Fredericksburg, Texas.)
(Packsaddle Mountain)

Restaurants:

Fast-food establishments such as Dairy Queen and Taco Bell are located on Highway 29 West in Llano, a short distance past its intersection with Highway 16. Highly recommended is Cooper's BBQ, located .4 miles past the intersection on Highway 29 West, on the lefthand side of the road.

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XII. BATTLE OF EAGLE'S NEST CROSSING ON THE PECOS (1875)

Summary:

In early April 1875, reports reached Fort Clark, Texas of a mounting wave of Indian depredations in the area. Colonel William R. Shafter ordered Lieutenant John L. Bullis to take a detachment of the U.S. Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts and conduct a patrol to the north and west of the post in search of the hostiles. Accompanied by Sergeant John Ward, Private Pompey Factor and Trumpeter John Ward, Bullis departed the post on 16 April and by the 25th they were on the west bank in the deep canyon of the Pecos River. They crossed the river about a mile above its mouth and rode southeast for about six miles, encountering abundant signs of Indian activity and expecting to encounter a band of hostiles at any time.

Leaving Seminole Springs near the mouth of Seminole Canyon at 1 P.M., they continued eastward for three miles until they struck a large, fresh trail which led from the direction of the settlements near Fort Clark towards the northwest and Eagle's Nest Crossing on the Pecos. Bullis immediately swung about in pursuit. Approaching the east bank of the ford from higher ground, they saw a group of 25-30 Indians preparing to drive a herd of about seventy-five stolen horses across the river.

Using clumps of cut brush to mask their presence, the soldiers crept downslope to a position within seventy-five yards of the tribesmen. Taking cover behind the boulders which dotted the slope, they opened fire upon the Indians. A forty-five minute firefight ensued, during which Bullis estimated that they killed three and wounded one of the enemy braves. On two occasions the scouts nearly captured the horse herd, but the hostiles' greater numbers and the superior firepower of their Winchester repeating rifles enabled them to retake the horses each time.

The hostiles eventually managed to work their way around the flanks of the scouts and threatened to overrun their positions. Bullis prudently decided to break contact and withdraw. Upon reaching their tethered horses the three scouts mounted and rode away. Bullis' horse bolted and ran off as he was attempting to swing into the saddle, leaving him afoot and alone in the face of the oncoming warriors. His men realized his predicament and came back to deliver covering fire as Sergeant Ward helped Bullis mount behind him. Braving intense enemy fire, the scouts retrieved their lieutenant and made good their escape. Bullis subsequently nominated all three men for the Medal of Honor, which they later received.

This small-scale, indecisive action was typical of most of those fought against the Plains Indians between 1865 and 1877. The fight at Eagle's Nest Crossing was distinctive primarily because it marked the award of the Medal of Honor to three members of the same unit for their participation in the same action.

Location:

This compact battle site is located in a public recreation area on the east bank of the Pecos River, immediately downstream from the U.S. Highway 90 bridge crossing in remote western Valverde County, northwest of Del Rio, Texas.

Directions:

From San Antonio proceed westward on U.S. Highway 90 for 157 miles to Del Rio, Texas. In Del Rio turn right onto Veterans Boulevard (U.S. Highway 90 West) and proceed for 42.4 miles northward out of town, passing through the hamlet of Comstock en route, to reach the entrance to the overlook park at Amistad National Recreation Area Pecos. Turn left into the parking area and dismount. This is an observation overlook area offering a vantage point for the Pecos River Gorge and adjacent bridge (Stop 1). (Note: If a period weapons shoot is desired for this staff ride a stop may be made en route at Brackettville to utilize the Fort Clark Springs Gun Club range by prior arrangement with the club president.) (See **Range Facilities**.)

At the Observation overlook discuss the topographic surroundings, Pecos River Valley, confluence of the Pecos River with the Rio Grande one mile downstream, current river level and width as opposed to those in 1875, location of the ford and background of the April 1875 Bullis patrol's progress to this point

Return to your vehicles and exit the Observation overlook area. At the exit make a right turn onto U.S. Highway 90 and proceed for .1 miles before making another right turn onto the park road leading southward for 1.4 miles to the ranger station and boat ramp. Proceed for a short distance downgrade past the ranger station and park adjacent to the observation point located below the ranger station. Halt and dismount (Stop 2).

Discuss the condition of the original trail approaching the ford from the east in 1875, and its later expansion into a wagon road and ultimately a portion of the original U.S. Highway 90. Identify the location of the currently submerged 1875 eastern bank of the ford. Discuss Bullis' approach to the ford and his tactics in launching the attack on the Indians at the ford below. Discuss the identity and activities of the Indians at the ford.

Proceed on foot down the boat ramp road toward the river's edge. Halt and discuss the location of the ford and onset of the fight, the Indians' numerical and firepower advantages, the progression of events during the battle, decisive events, Bullis' decision to break contact and withdraw, and his rescue by the Seminole-Negro Scouts.

Return to the parking lot observation point (Stop 1) and conduct the Integration and Critique phases of the staff ride.

Range Facilities:

Mr. Kurt Partlow
President
Fort Clark Springs Gun Club
Fort Clark Springs
Brackettville, Texas 78832
830-563-9608
KURTPARTLOW @ GLOBAL.MET

Restaurants:

Del Rio boasts numerous restaurants suitable for hosting a staff ride group. The adjoining Laughlin Air Force Base's Club XL service club is also a possible choice for a noon (daily) or evening meal (Thursdays only) for military personnel as required by the staff ride's schedule. (Note: Access to Laughlin Air Force Base by vehicles containing firearms is prohibited.)

Points of Contact:

Club XL (Officer): 830-298-5346

References:

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XIII. GENERAL POINT OF CONTACT

Staff ride planners seeking additional guidance or information on these sites should contact the author via the following channels:

Command Historian
U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School
Attn: Dr. Austerman
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